DTH signals anywhere in the country (except A&N Islands) including Amritsar with the help of a small sized dish receive unit. Erection and commissioning of new T.V. transmitters are, therefore, not contemplated now. Government is fully alive to the issue raised in the question and Amritsar or any part of Punjab will not, at any cost, be neglected.

(ii) Coverage of A.I.R.: As regards A.I.R. Amritsar is covered by 300 kw MW and 200 kw MW transmitter at Jalandhar. Under the Tenth Five Year Plan scheme, a 20 kw FM Transmitter at Amritsar is proposed, the commissioning of which will, however, be subject to the approval and availability of resources.

Free movement of scribes

3547. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government favour free movement of scribes across the borders in the Sourth Asian Countires;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remove restrictions of movement of journalists?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Government is keen to support the process of free movement of media people and media product within the region. The Second Conference of Editors and Working Journalists from SAARC countries held in New Delhi on 28-29 October, 2004 recommended for assuring free movement of media professionals within SAARC member countries and for relaxing the visa regime among SAARC countries for accredited media professionals. The Fourth meeting of the SAARC Information Ministers held in Islamabad on 15-16, December, 2004 endorsed this stand and also recommended for member countries to facilitate the movement of accredited media persons by liberalizing the visa regimes on the basis of reciprocity. The Reports of these meetings have been approved by the 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka, on November12-13, 2005. The 13th SAARC Summit also approved the recommendation of SAARC Council of Ministers to expand the list of persons entitled under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme by including, among other entitled categories, the accredited journalists of five-year standing of the region.